10th October 1928]

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That is asking for an opinion."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" My question, Sir, is whether the Government will recover rent in such cases."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will kindly resume his seat."

Land Revenue

Method of better publicity of information to villagers.

* 463 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : With reference to the answer to question No. 315 answered on 8th September 1928, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have now considered how better publicity can be given to any notifications or other matter intended for the information of the villagers, particularly in the West Coast districts ; and

(b) if so, what conclusions they have arrived at thereon regarding this subject ?

A. (a) & (b) The Board of Revenue has been asked for a report on the subject.

Legislative

Purchase of books for the Legislative Council Library.

* 464 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the firm from which books are bought for the Legislative Council Library ;

(b) whether it is a fact that it is the only firm in Madras from which and through which books can be purchased for the library ;

(c) if so, under what orders and what was the practice before ;

(d) whether the rates of that firm are higher or lower for books published outside India than any other firm in Madras ; or

(e) whether it is possible to get books directly from British or other European or American firms cheaper ; and

(f) what endeavours have been made to get books from or through firms outside India at cheaper rates in the past and at present ?

A.—(a) Messrs. The Associated Publishers (Madras), Limited, Higginbothams Department, Mount Road.

(b) Yes ; unless books are urgently required and can be procured more promptly from another firm in India.

(c) Under the orders of the Government. The practice of purchasing books through the Associated Publishers has been in existence since 1927. Prior to that also books were purchased through a single firm.

(d), (e) & (f) The rates are in accordance with a contract which was entered into after tenders had been called for. The Government accepted what they considered to be the best of the tenders offered. They do not see their way to state the terms contained in other tenders.